

of a grateful nation for her dedicated service.

Congratulations to COL Barbara J. Bruno. I wish her Godspeed.●

TRIBUTE TO THE VANDERVLIEET FAMILY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor the 2008 Agri-Business Farm Family of the year. This award goes to the VanDerVliet family: Rod and Lois VanDerVliet and their children, Ryan and Sarah VanDerVliet, Lisa and Jamie Johnson, and Lori and Ryan Fods; and their grandchildren Rhegan Oberg, Tyson VanDerVliet, Weston VanDerVliet, Parker Johnson, Devin Fods, and Clara VanDerVliet.

For over 30 years the VanDerVliets have raised livestock and grain on their farm west of Colton, SD. Today, Rod's son Ryan, daughters Lisa and Lori, and son-in-law Ryan are an important part of the farm operation. Over the past several years the family has navigated the quickly changing farm industry and successfully utilized technology to ensure that the farm stays competitive and productive.

Although Rod VanDerVliet sees farms becoming more business oriented than ever, he and his family love the farming lifestyle. Rod enjoys it because of its flexibility, connection to nature, and most importantly, because it is something that involves the whole family. Ryan shares his dad's love of farming and says he "like[s] being around the animals and the farming lifestyle." Both men would like to pass this way of life on to the next generation. And, with six grandchildren under the age of six, there shouldn't be any shortage of help.

The family's hard work has passed beyond the farmyard and into the community. The children grew up participating in 4-H and FFA. Rod has served on the Colton Farmers Elevator Board for more than 20 years and the MCWC Rural Water Board; Ryan serves on the township board, and the entire family is involved in numerous community organizations and activities.

The VanDerVliets are an example of families that embody South Dakota values and form the bedrock of our great State. I am very proud to see a family-run farm successfully evolving in the changing industry while maintaining a commitment to their community and family. I commend them for this award, and I wish them continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LARRY HEALY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor Larry Healy, who has been named the 2008 Agri-Business Citizen of the Year. Larry has been employed by Campbell Supply Company for 20 years, and currently manages one of its Sioux Falls stores. He is also actively engaged in community activities and embodies the true spirit of the American farmer.

Larry grew up in Montrose, SD, where he first worked in his father's welding and repair shop before becoming employed in the farm department at Campbell Supply in Sioux Falls. In 1990, he was promoted to store manager at the Rock Rapids, IA, store, a position in which he proudly served for 11 years.

In 2001, Larry transferred back to Sioux Falls where he continued to serve as store manager. Since then, Larry has become involved with the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Agri-Business Division, where he has served on the Agri-Business Division Council and volunteers with Agri-Business activities.

Larry chaired the Ag Appreciation Day for 2 years and has worked with the chamber and hundreds of volunteers on events such as an event during the Sioux Empire Fair that provided a complimentary meal to approximately 5,000 area farmers. He also chaired the Ag Division in 2006-07.

Larry is proud to work for Campbell Supply Company, which has been family owned since its founding. The Campbell family believes in giving back to the community and supporting local agriculture, something Larry sincerely appreciates because he understands the important role farmers play in American cities and towns.

Larry sets a fine example for all involved in advancing our Nation's great agricultural foundations. I commend him for this award, and I wish him continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3432. An act to establish the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

H.R. 4986. An act to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect to the attachment of property in certain judgements against Iraq, the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

At 1:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3873. An act to expedite the transfer of ownership of rural multifamily housing projects with loans made or insured under

section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 so that such projects are rehabilitated and preserved for use for affordable housing.

H.R. 3959. An act to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the phase-in of actuarial rates for certain pre-FIRM properties.

H.R. 3971. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3992. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illness, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 282. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3873. An act to expedite the transfer of ownership of rural multifamily housing projects with loans made or insured under section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 so that such projects are rehabilitated and preserved for use for affordable housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3959. An act to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the phase-in of actuarial rates for certain pre-FIRM properties; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3971. An act to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3992. An act to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illnesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2556. A bill to extend the provisions of the Protect America Act of 2007 for an additional 30 days.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4660. A communication from the Director, Supplemental Foods Program Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children: Revisions in the WIC Food Packages" (RIN0584-AD77) received on January 8, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.